

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 SCEM-02

SCI-06 INT-08 DRC-01 /192 W
----- 005461

R 021741Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7703

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

COMSIXTHFLEET

CNO

CINCLANTFLT

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 22

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENGR, MARR, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH POSITION ON SUPPLY OF FUEL TO US SHIPS

REF: (A) MADRID 7476; (B) MADRID 7680

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF SPANISH
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT NOTE DATED DECEMBER 26 AND
DELIVERED TO US PERMANENT SECRETARIAT DECEMBER 28. THIS
NOTE APPARENTLY PREPARED BEFORE SPANISH HAD RECEIVED
AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER OF DECEMBER 27
(REF B).

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BEGIN TRANSLATION OF TEXT.

SUBJECT: SPANISH OF FUEL AND ENTRY OF US SHIPS IN SPANISH
PORTS

IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST OF THE NAVAL ATTACHE OF
THE US EMBASSY IN SPAIN THAT THE SHIPS LISTED ON THE
ATTACHED SUPPLIED FUEL IN THE PORTS INDICATED (REF A),
I MUST INFORM YOU ON HIGHER ORDERS THAT, IN SPITE OF
THE COMPLICATIONS THAT IT COULD REPRESENT FOR SPAIN AND
WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ASSISTING THE LONG VOYAGE OF THE
TWO DESTROYERS THAT ARE SEEKING SUPPLIES IN LAS PALMAS
DE GRAN CANARIA, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO GRANT A SUPPLY IN
THE FORM OF A LOAN WHOSE REPAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY GIVING
SPAIN AN EQUAL QUANTITY OF FUEL FROM THE US SUPPLIES AT
ROTA.

WITH RESPECT TO THE SUPPLY OF FUEL TO THE OTHER FOUR
SHIPS LISTED, WITH REGRET I MUST INFORM YOU THAT, AFTER
THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THE NORMS IMPOSED BY THE
ARAB COUNTRIES MAKE SUCH A SUPPLY IMPOSSIBLE, SINCE IN
THE AGREEMENTS WITH SPAIN IT IS ESPECIALLY STRESSED THAT
THE FUEL THAT THEY PROVIDE TO OUR COUNTRIES NOT BE GIVEN
TO OTHER NATIONS.

FOR THIS REASON TO MAKE NOTICEABLE DELIVERIES OF FUEL
TO SHIPS OF THE US FLEET WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ATTITUDE
TOTALLY CONTRARY TO THAT NEEDED TO KEEP SPAIN SUPPLIED,
A FACTOR WHICH COULD LEAD TO A SUSPENSION OF THOSE
SUPPLIES WHICH WOULD PROFOUNDLY DISTURB THE LIFE OF SPAIN.

THEREFORE, I HAVE THE HONOR TO SUGGEST THAT ALL THE
FUEL REQUIREMENTS THAT US SHIPS MAY HAVE BE MET FROM YOUR
STOCKS AT CARTEGENA OR ROTA.

AT THE SAME TIME I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU THAT THE
REQUEST FOR SHIP VISITS BE MADE--IF NOT THE FIVE DAYS
SPECIFIED BY THE AGREEMENT--AT LEAST WITH TIME FOR A
DECISION TO BE MADE RATHER THAN AS WAS THE CASE OF THE
REQUEST FOR VISITS TO BARCELONA AND VALENCIA ON THE 19TH,
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WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE SPANISH SECTION TODAY.

MADRID, DECEMBER 26, 1973
(THE GENERAL MILITARY SECRETARY)
(SIGNED:) JUAN MATEO MARCOS

END TRANSLATION OF TEXT.

2. THIS NOTE, WHICH IS FIRST EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF GOS
POLICY ON REFUELING SHIPS, DISPELS ALL REMAINING DOUBTS
THAT SPANISH REFUSAL BASED ON FEAR OF ARAB REPRISALS MORE
THAN CONCERN OVER CURRENT SHORTAGES. IN VIEW OF THIS REPLY,
EMBASSY CONSIDERS REFUELING ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED AT FIRST
OPPORTUNITY EITHER AT SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OR
AT NEXT REGULAR MEETING. WITH ANOTHER CABINET SHAKEUP
IMPENDING, NOW DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WHEN THAT MIGHT BE.
IN ANY EVENT, WE PLAN TO AWAIT REASONABLE PERIOD FOR REPLY
TO AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER BEFORE ANY
FINAL DECISION ON JOINT COMMITTEE TACTICS.
RIVERO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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